

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In total, 92,769 mountain trout anglers (76,761 residents and 16,008 nonresidents) fished for 1.42 million days in North Carolina in 2008. They spent \$146 million and had a total economic output of \$174 million when indirect economic effects are factored in.

Mountain trout fishing in Hatchery Supported Waters contributed an estimated \$72.7 million to North Carolina's economy. Mountain trout fishing in Delayed Harvest Waters contributed an estimated \$46.5 million to North Carolina's economy. Finally, mountain trout fishing in Wild Trout Waters contributed an estimated \$55.2 million to the economy of North Carolina.

The typical resident mountain trout angler spends approximately \$65 per day on trip expenditures when mountain trout fishing in North Carolina; nonresidents average \$158 on trip expenditures. Annually, the typical resident mountain trout angler spends a little over \$500 on mountain trout fishing equipment in North Carolina.

The typical resident mountain trout angler fishes for mountain trout about 10 days in North Carolina in a year; the typical nonresident fishes for about 5 days for mountain trout in North Carolina. Anglers fished an estimated 625,147 days in Hatchery Supported Waters, 374,611 days in Delayed Harvest Waters, and 422,671 days in Wild Trout Waters. Most trips taken by mountain trout anglers last only 1 day.

More than three-fourths of mountain trout anglers are North Carolina residents. The typical mountain trout angler is approximately 50 years old (the mean ages are 51.2 years among resident anglers and 48.9 years among nonresident anglers). Finally, mountain trout anglers are overwhelmingly male (92% of resident anglers; 96% of nonresident anglers).

This study was conducted for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (the Commission) to determine mountain trout anglers' contribution to North Carolina's economy. The study entailed a telephone survey of North Carolina licensed anglers and an economic analysis of their spending on mountain trout fishing activities.

For the survey, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because almost all of the anglers in the sample owned a telephone. The telephone survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management, Southwick Associates, and the Commission. The survey was conducted in late March through early April 2009. Responsive Management obtained a total of 1,232 completed interviews. The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language.